

HOUSE BILL 958

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2004 Regular Session  
4lr2233

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By: **Delegates King, Gilleland, Barkley, Bartlett, Boschert, Cardin, Cryor,  
Dumais, Feldman, Healey, Hixson, Howard, Kaiser, Murray, Myers,  
Niemann, Ross, and ~~V. Turner~~ V. Turner, Bozman, C. Davis, Elmore,  
Goodwin, Gordon, Heller, Marriott, McKee, Patterson, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 2004

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs;  
4 providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task  
5 Force to study and evaluate certain issues and make certain recommendations  
6 by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally  
7 relating to the study of teacher mentoring programs in the public schools of the  
8 State.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, Based on recent studies by the Maryland State Department of  
11 Education, approximately 50% of new Maryland teachers have no classroom  
12 experience;

13 WHEREAS, National research studies have concluded that 50% of new teachers  
14 leave teaching during their first 5 years and that a major reason teachers give for  
15 leaving their profession is a lack of support and professional development;

16 WHEREAS, Teacher mentoring programs provide experienced mentors to work  
17 with new teachers to ensure that Maryland has a teaching workforce capable of  
18 delivering highly effective instruction and to promote the retention of highly qualified  
19 teachers;

20 WHEREAS, The General Assembly passed the Quality Teacher Incentive Act of  
21 1999 which, among other initiatives, established a competitive grant program to

1 encourage county boards of education to develop and expand teacher mentoring  
2 programs;

3 WHEREAS, The Maryland Teacher Mentoring Program sunset in July 2003  
4 under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act; and

5 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly believes that the State should  
6 continue to promote effective teacher mentoring programs in Maryland public  
7 schools; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
9 MARYLAND, That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maryland  
11 public schools.

12 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

13 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
14 of the Senate;

15 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
16 the House;

17 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or a designee;

18 (4) a representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education,  
19 appointed by the Association;

20 (5) two public school teachers who have served as mentors in a local  
21 public school system, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

22 (6) two parents of public school students, appointed by the Governor; and

23 (7) a representative of a teacher organization, appointed by the State  
24 Superintendent of Schools.

25 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall  
26 appoint a chairman from the members appointed to the Task Force.

27 (d) The Maryland State Department of Education shall provide staff for the  
28 Task Force.

29 (e) The Task Force shall:

30 (1) evaluate the level and adequacy of existing teacher mentoring  
31 programs in public school systems in the State;

32 (2) evaluate the effectiveness of the Maryland Teacher Mentoring  
33 Program established under the Quality Teacher Incentive Act of 1999;

1           (3)       evaluate the need for additional teacher mentoring, particularly in  
2 schools where teachers are most at risk of leaving, and the best methods to create  
3 mentorship opportunities; and

4           (4)       make recommendations regarding how the State can support and  
5 promote teacher mentoring programs to train and retain highly qualified teachers in  
6 Maryland public schools.

7       (f)       The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
8 Governor and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
9 and the House Ways and Means Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
10 Government Article, on or before December 1, 2004.

11       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 June 1, 2004. It shall remain in effect for 7 months and, at the end of December 31,  
13 2004, without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly, this Act shall  
14 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.